

Arkell, A. J.

1936-1937

[El Fasher, Darfur
Sudan]

El Fasher,
Darfur,
Sudan.

Aug 14 1936.

Dear Sir,

I understand from Mr A.E. Robinson
of St Albans that your society is
prepared to purchase any
Darfur coins.

There is only the one Darfur
coin struck by Sultan Ali
Dinar AH 1323 = ? 1908. It is
a piastre of thin base metal
(? copper) which in theory contained
a little silver, but in practice I veg

Much doubt whether it did.

The coins were struck from locally made dies : and as one die broke or wore out the dies was replaced by another, but the date was not changed, until the occupation of Darfur in 1916, ^{when the issue ceased.} There are therefore of course a considerable number of minor differences in the pattern.

These coins are now becoming scarce. They were not kept by

the natives as they are worthless to them.

I have about half a dozen specimens in my possession, and may be able to obtain a few more locally. If you are interested you will probably let me know your requirements and what you are prepared to pay

Yours truly

A. J. Arkell

A. J. ARKELL Esq MBE.M.C.

Sept. 16, 1936

A. J. Arkell, Esq.,
El Fasher,
Darfur, Sudan

Dear Sir:

We would be interested in the Darfur coins that you mention. We have none of these although we have heard of them. We have probably the finest collection of Omdarman coins that there is.

We would be glad to have you send to us as many varieties as you care to dispose of. As for the price, we are at a loss to know what they are worth. As a matter of fact I do not think there is any fixed value. I think you are more prepared to put a price on them than we are. Therefore if you are willing to send them on approval with your price we undoubtedly will take them.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

June 10, 1937

A. J. Arkell, Esq., M.B.E.,
10 Norham Road,
Oxford, England

My dear Mr. Arkell:

My good friend, Mr. John Walker, has written me that he has been working with you on the coins of Darfur. We have a very fine Oriental collection in our Museum and I have been trying to get hold of examples of the coins of Darfur, but without success.

I was wondering if you could help me out. We would be glad to purchase any you might have to offer.

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Curator

HW ks

El Fasher
Darfur
Sudan.

24.7.37..

Dear Mr Howland Wood,

I apologise for not answering
your letter of June 10th before;
but my leave was upset by my
wife being ill.

All my Darfur coins are with
Mr Walker, who is helping me
work up a paper on them for
Sudan Notes + Records.

I am giving first pick to the
British Museum, second pick
to the Ashmolean at Oxford,
and I will ask Mr Walker
to select the next series
from them for you. I

do not know yet when she will

be in a position to do this.

At the latest when I get home
next year.

Yours sincerely

A. J. Arkell

September 8, 1937

A. J. Arkell, Esq.,
El Fasher,
Darfur, Sudan,
Africa

Dear Mr. Arkell:

Your favor of July 24th at hand and I beg to thank you in behalf of our Society for your kindness in having Mr. Walker select eventually a few of the Darfur coins for our Museum.

Very sincerely,

Curator

HW ks